Vacant Posts of Scheduled Castes/ Scheduled Tribes in Courts

2624. SHRI KRISHAN DUTT SULTANPURI: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of reserved posts for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes lying vacant in the Supreme Court and various High Courts;

(b) the number of posts filled up during the last three months; and

(c) the steps being taken to fill up the remaining posts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS COMPANY AFFAIRS THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM): (a) to (c). Appointment of Judges of the Supreme Court and the High Courts are made in terms of relevant provisions of the Constitution of India which do not provide for reservation for any caste or class of persons. As such the questions of vacancy against or filling up of reserved posts do not arise.

[*English*]

Closure of Powerlooms

2625. SHRI M.V. CHANDRASEKHARA MURTHY:
SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD:

Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of different varieties of cotton have increased during the post few months;

(b) if so, whether a large number of powerlooms are facing closure due to this unprecedented rise in cotton prices;

(c) the reaction of the Government in this regard; and

(d) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to save the powerlooms from closure?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) There are reports of reduction in the scale of activities of power looms in certain pockets of powerloom concentration due to increase in the prices of yarn.

(c) and (d). Government has taken a number of corrective measures including suspending export of cotton yarn and by pursuading the spinning mills in the cooperative, private and State sectors to supply yarn to handloom and powerloom weavers at pre-budget prices. Government is following a cautious policy on the export of cotton during 1991-92 cotton season so that adequate raw material is available to the handloom and powerloom weavers are reasonable prices.

Fire in Sena Bhawan

2626. PROF. RAM KAPSE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No.670 on July 26, 1991 and state:

(a) whether the Court of Inquiry set up to investigate the causes of fire in Sena Bhawan has since submitted its report;

(b) if so, the findings of the inquiry;